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# Media Advisory

## Hialeah Women's Club to get a New Home

**Hialeah, Florida** – Today, Mayor Julio Robaina, the Hialeah City Council and members of the Hialeah Women's will be present as demolition begins on the Hialeah Women's Club. The building, which was in deplorable conditions, is being torn down to make way for a new 32-38 unit housing facility with the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor becoming the new home of the Hialeah Women's Club. Mayor Robaina will be doing the ceremonial first strike to the building and will be making a special presentation and giving the Ladies keepsakes, each will receive a piece of tile from the building.

In 1924, the Hialeah Women's Club came up with the original idea for a local library. Ms. Lua Adams Curtiss, an active member of the club and mother of the famous aviator and developer Glenn Curtiss, persuaded the Women's Club to start a library with donated books. A book tea held by the Club in 1924 netted approximately 50 volumes, and later on, a few more were added through door-to-door collections and other civic events. At last, enough books were collected to warrant the opening of the city's first lending library, which just happened to be in a single room in the home of the Club's president, Ms. J. Sommers Garwood.

The following year, more books were added to the collection following the death of a local benefactor named Ms. Martha Holden. The added books were welcomed but Ms. Garwood's home was unable to accommodate the larger collection. Hialeah's School Board came to the rescue by offering a portable classroom at the city's only school, South Hialeah Elementary. There the library remained in operation for a year until the destructive hurricane of 1926. Both the building and the collection were badly damaged.

In no time, the persistent members of the Hialeah Women's Club went right back to work again. After soliciting more books from all over town, they succeeded in getting a single room at the City Hall building to serve as temporary quarters. The temporary quarters took on a more permanent role as the library continued to operate in the City Hall building for the next two decades. It would not be until the early 1950s, when Hialeah's population reached about 40,000 that the library would be able to settle into a building of its own.

**When – Today at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Where – 525 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Hialeah**

**For more information, please contact the City of Hialeah Communications & Special Events Department at 305-889-5701.**